

Top Secret



Twelfth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

**(This report covers the week from
4 May through 10 May 1973)**

*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

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DIA review(s) completed.

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11 May 1973

Twelfth Report

COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
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(This report covers the week from
4 May through 10 May 1973)

The Key Points

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- Heavy North Vietnamese logistic activity continued all along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos, in northern South Vietnam, and in the North Vietnamese Panhandle.
- Combat activity during the week remained at a low level in both South Vietnam and Laos.

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The Details

NOTE: This is the twelfth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-instigated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.

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B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies Toward and Into South Vietnam and Laos

4. The pace of Communist logistical activity continued to be very high during the week. Trucks detected moving into Laos via Ban Karai Pass totaled 102 during the week, approximately the same level as detected a week earlier. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Traffic remained very heavy on the major north/south routes through southern Laos, and a special effort is currently underway to move supplies from Laos apparently toward all of the major regions of South Vietnam. Large stockpiles of supplies--ordnance as well as food--continue to be observed in northern South Vietnam and southern Laos. Heavy vehicle traffic through southern North Vietnam toward Laos and South Vietnam also continues.

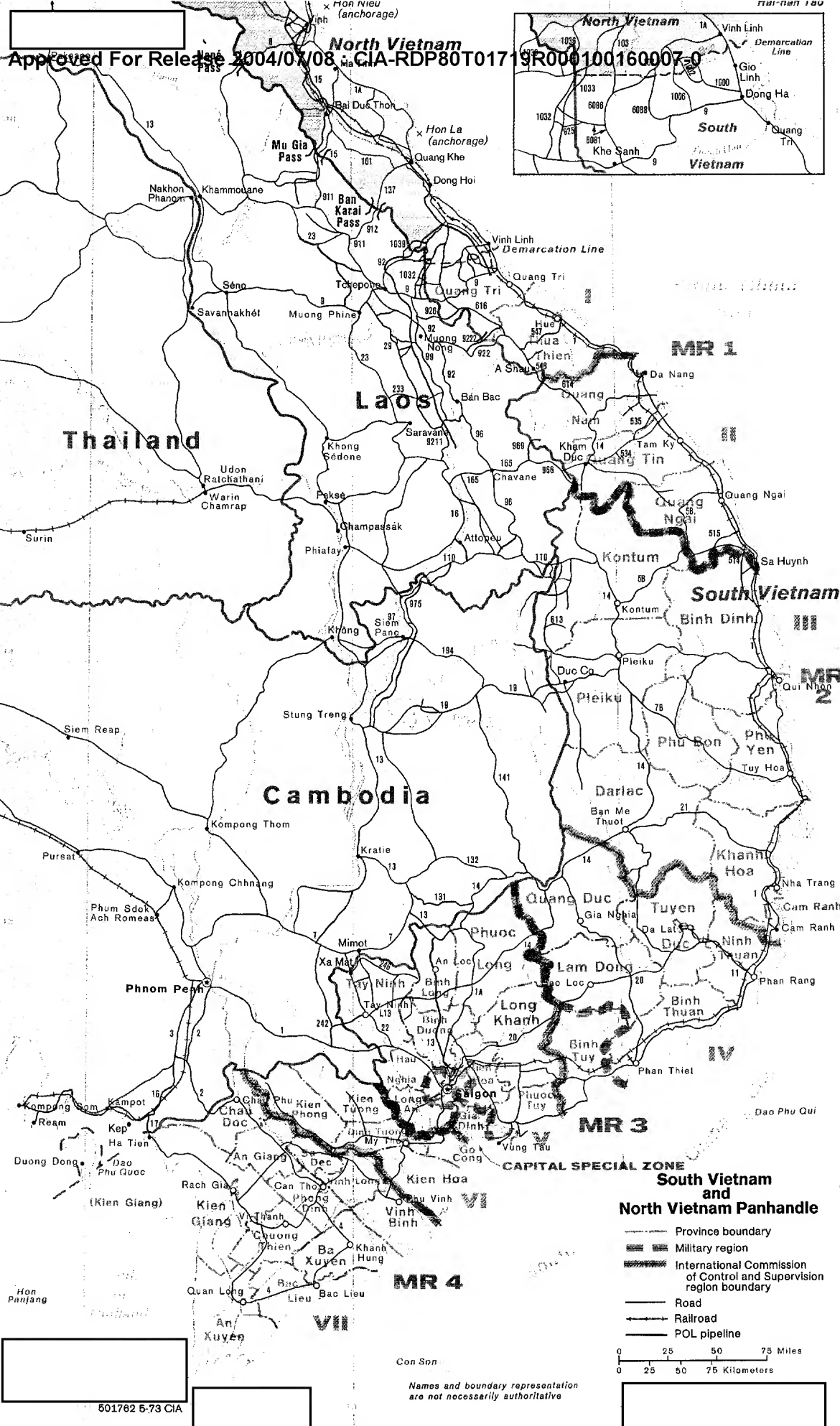
5. The following instances of Communist logistic activity were observed in South Vietnam during the period. (The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

- (a) NVA vehicle activity was observed on routes within South Vietnam during the reporting period as follows:

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6. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in southern Laos were noted. Historical precedent suggests that much of this activity probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

- (a) On 5 May, 95 southbound vehicles and 76 northbound vehicles were active on Route 92.
- (b) On 7 May, at least 84 vehicles were active in the central Laos Panhandle.

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- (d) During the period 2-8 May, 102 southbound vehicles were detected south of Ban Karai Pass; 111 southbound vehicles were detected there a week earlier.
- (e) During the same period 147 southbound trucks were detected on Route 1033, including 51 on 4 May.
- (f) The following vehicle activity was detected on Route 99 during the period:
 - (1) On 4 May, there were 52 cargo trucks observed on the route between Muong Nong and Route 96 (22 northbound, 21 southbound, and 9 parked).
 - (2) On 5 May, 26 cargo trucks were observed south of Muong Nong (2 northbound, 20 southbound, and 4 parked).

- (3) On 6 May, 209 cargo trucks were observed on Route 99 west and south of Muong Nong (206 southbound, 3 parked).
- (4) On 7 May, 145 cargo trucks were observed on Route 99 between Muong Nong and Route 96 (80 northbound, 44 southbound, and 21 parked).
- (5) On 8 May, 188 cargo trucks were observed on Route 99 between Muong Nong and Route 96 (106 southbound, 2 northbound, and 80 parked).
- (6) On 9 May, 228 cargo trucks were observed in the same area (22 northbound, 135 southbound, and 71 parked).
- (g) The following activity was detected on Route 9211 northeast of Ban Phone:
 - (1) On 4 May, 39 cargo trucks were observed (29 southbound, 6 northbound, and 4 parked).
 - (2) On 5 May, 30 trucks (6 northbound, 20 southbound, and 4 parked) were observed.
 - (3) On 7 May, 58 cargo trucks (3 northbound, 24 southbound, and 31 parked) were observed.
 - (4) On 8 May, 28 cargo trucks (5 northbound, and 23 southbound) were observed.
 - (5) On 9 May, 122 cargo trucks (23 northbound, 90 southbound, and 9 parked) were observed.

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(h) On roads leading toward South Vietnam the following vehicle traffic was observed:

- (1) On 4 May, 50 cargo trucks (36 eastbound, 4 westbound, and 10 parked) on Route 9 east of Tchepone.
- (2) On 5 May, 31 cargo trucks (8 eastbound, 14 westbound, and 9 parked) were observed on Route 165/966 east of Chavane.

7. There is additional evidence of the continuing movement within North Vietnam of military and other supplies probably destined for South Vietnam and southern Laos.

- (a) On 30 April and 1 May, 78 vehicles crossed the Giang River in the southern North Vietnam Panhandle. On 9 May, 51 vehicles transited the area. On each date, half of those observed were southbound.

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C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

8. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 28 January and for the last week (4-10 May) are shown below:

Military Region	Total Since Ceasefire Level of Action		Last Week (4-10 May) Level of Action	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	883	2,929	26	79
MR 2	210	1,491	7	87
MR 3	328	2,015	17	84
MR 4	514	4,708	31	348
Totals	1,935	11,143	81 (94) 1/	598 (581) 1/

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

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9. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the ceasefire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.

D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces
in Laos During the Week From 4 Through 10 May

10. The week passed with no reports of serious combat incidents in Laos. Minor clashes occurred, however, in the contested area southeast of Thakhek in central Laos. In northwestern Sayaboury Province, a government reaction force has succeeded in recouping two of three positions lost to a Communist attack on 20 April.

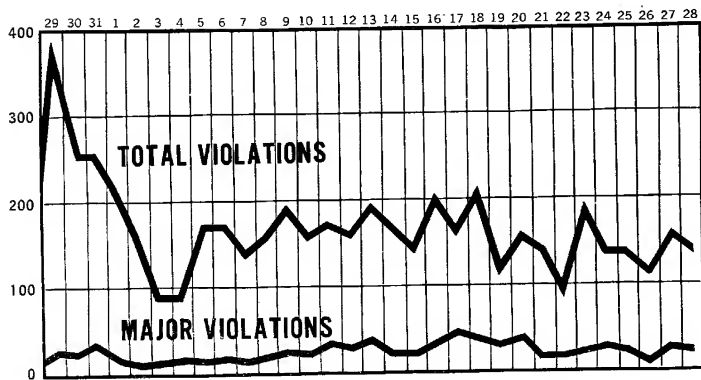


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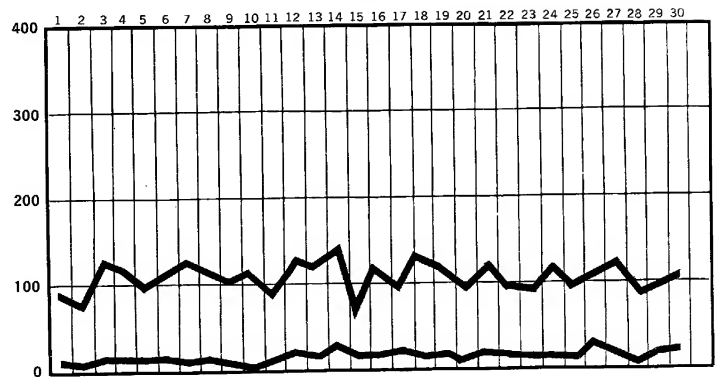
CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)

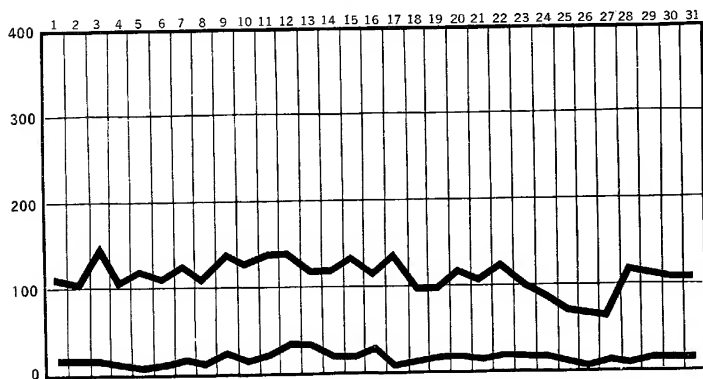
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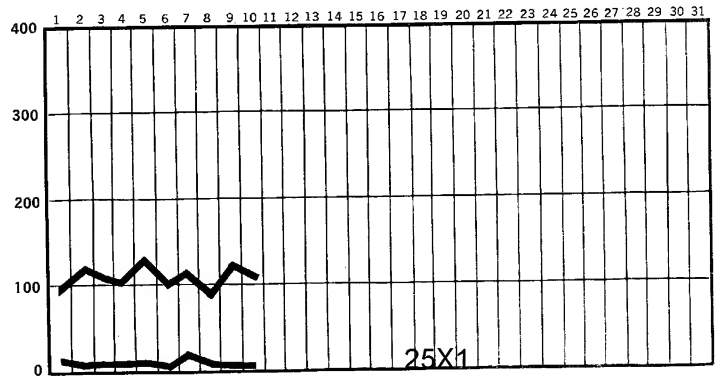
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